

1960
Minutes of Annual Meeting
Burnt Fork - Birch Creek
Distribution System

SUMMARY

The ANNUAL MEETING of the WATER USERS of the BURNT FORK - BIRCH CREEK DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM and the STATE ENGINEER was held at 6 p.m. in the Daggett County Courthouse at Manila, Utah. Notice was sent to all the known users and a copy of that notice is attached to these minutes.

A BUDGET of \$800.00 was adopted for the 1960 Distribution Season, of which Utah's share of $1/3$ is \$266.67 and Wyoming's share of $2/3$ is \$533.33. The Utah water users voted to assess themselves \$270.00 on the same acreage basis as the 1959 assessment. Mr. W. Moile Triplett of McKinnon, Wyoming was recommended to be Water Commissioner for 1960 by both the Utah and Wyoming water users. Mr. Wayne D. Criddle, Utah state Engineer, stated that he would make the appointment official as soon as Mr. Triplett accepted the position of Burnt Fork - Birch Creek Water Commissioner.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Criddle called the meeting to order and commented that some of the water users could not be present because they were snowed in. He excused Committee Chairman, Charles Meeks of McKinnon Wyoming, and explained that he was in Green River Wyoming. He explained the business before the meeting; hearing a financial statement for 1959, selecting an executive committee, adopting a budget for 1960, recommending a water commissioner and whatever business might properly come before the water users meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The group voted to reinstate Mr. Charles Meeks, McKinnon, Wyoming, as chairman; Mr. Bob Gamble, Utah Committee Member; and Mr. William Smith,

Wyoming Committee Member. Mr. Laray Sadlier, McKinnon, Wyoming, was elected to the office of secretary to fill the vacancy of Mr. Clude Sadlier on the executive committee.

GENERAL BUDGET

Mr. David Miller, Superintendent of District # 4 representing the Wyoming State Engineer, said that he hoped that there would be a better water supply for 1960 and that all the water users would be able to get along in the valley without friction. He said that his office recommended to Wyoming interests that W. Moile Tripplett be water commissioner for 1960 and that the budget be raised \$50.00 to total \$800.00 for the 1960 distribution season. He explained that Wyoming would pay 2/3 of the \$800.00 as its share of the distribution costs.

Mr. Criddle explained that Wyoming has a general fund and a district financing system for water distribution. Utah uses the assessment system in which the water users must pay the cost of distribution themselves.

DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Criddle explained that the office of the Utah State Engineer would be glad to help the Burnt Fork-Birch Creek water users with their distribution problems. Mr. Miller said that if problems of magnitude arise on the system, that the commissioner and water users should feel free to call upon the services of this Office at Rock Springs, Wyoming. He commented that the two offices would cooperate for better administration and supervision of distribution both in Utah and Wyoming.

Mr. Criddle said, "No Commissioner can distribute water without proper measuring devices and proper controls, and we must insist that they be put in to insure every-one proper proportion of water."

GENERAL BUSINESS

In the absence of the chairman, Mr. Criddle asked the group whether a committee

member would act as chairman for the meeting. The water users expressed the opinion that they wished the State Engineer to be chairman in the absence of Charlie Meeks the regular chairman, and to conduct the meeting. He stated that the business before the group was to hear how last year's instructions were carried out to hear the minutes of the 1959 annual meeting, to decide upon a budget for 1960, to recommend a water commissioner, and to hear the commissioner's report for 1959 distribution.

Mr. Frank Reese, business manager and chief accountant for the State Engineer's Office read the minutes of the 1959 meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Mr. Reese then read the prepared financial statement covering 1959 distribution year. He explained that the total budget in 1959 was \$750.00 of which the Utah users paid \$225.00 as a reimbursement to Wyoming. He pointed out that the users were paid up, including all past delinquencies.

Mr. Bob Gamble of Burnt Fork, Wyoming asked Mr. Reese about the expense of the phone calls and the stamps which the executive committee had acquired, and if this amount, which was small, would come out of the \$2088 balance?

Mr. Criddle explained that no individual should stand these committee expenses and that if the proper vouchers would be sent to the State Engineer that reimbursement could be made from the system's account.

After this explanation, it was moved by Mr. Lawrence Beck and seconded by Mr. Bob Gamble that the 1959 Financial Report be accepted. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Donald C. Norseth, Distribution Engineer, gave the Commissioner's Report for 1959 in the absence of Mr. W. Moile Triplett, commissioner. Mr. Norseth explained the details of the distribution system and read the total diversion records for each canal and ditch. He discussed the problems of transmission loss and special areas where distribution problems occurred. He read the following recommenda-

tions submitted by the commissioner: (1) Elimination of the beaver dams at the mouth of the canyon, and diverting the flow of Burnt Fork down a single channel or ~~fence~~ canal, (2) Elimination of the diversion of a portion of the creek flow at the Forest fence, (3) diverting the stream into a single channel at Muskrat Springs, (4) Cleaning the east channel of the creek between the fork and Kiekendall Ditch, and (5) Cleaning the west channel to Perkins Ditch.

Along with the channel loss, Mr. Norseth discussed the return flow problem. He explained that the physical factors governing the minor return flow of Burnt Fork were quite different from those which allowed a relatively large return flow to Birch Creek. Mr. Norseth said that there were apparently no constant transmission losses or return flow percentages, but that they varied over the system and at the same place under different circumstances.

Mr. Miller suggested that it might be well to determine whether it would be advisable to put in gage systems to determine the true transmission loss in different areas.

The problem of waste created by seepage under the gate on the Interstate Canal diversion was reported and stated that the gate could not be shut off and that about five c.f.s was being wasted. Mr. Criddle said that with a cooperative attitude between Wyoming and Utah that together they will find out more about these problems and help to eliminate or reduce them.

Mr. Miller agreed that they should work together on gages and loss studies, and he suggested that Wyoming would employ a hydrographer to make a further detailed study of the transmission losses and return flows, and to make a series of measurements to establish a reasonable percentage of loss and return flow that might be used in distributing the water.

WATER COMMISSIONER

Mr. Criddle asked the group to consider the selection of a water commissioner for 1960.

The group agreed that Mr. Triplett be recommended for appointment as water commissioner on Burnt Fork - Birch Creek for 1960.

Mr. Criddle then suggested that the executive committee contact Mr. Triplett and if arrangements are alright as to salary ect, and Mr. Triplett agreed to accept the position, that the committee should then notify the State Engineer and he would make the appointment.

1960 BUDGET

Upon recommendation from Mr. Miller, the total budget for 1960 was raised \$50.00 over the 1959 budget, or a grand total of \$800.00 for 1960's budget. Of the \$800.00 the State of Wyoming will pay 2/3, or \$533.33 and the Utah Water Users will pay 1/3 or \$266.67.

Utah's water users agreed to be assessed \$270.00 based upon the 1959 acreage assessment and that budget be broken down in the following manner:

\$216.67.....Commissioner's salary (reimbursement to Wyoming)

35.00.....Additional work for Utah users at \$12.00 per day and 7 cents per mile.

18.33.....Bonds and Insurance premiuma.

\$270.00.....Total Utah Budget.

The commissioner is to receive \$200.00 per month for three months and be subject to call after August 1 at the rate of \$12.00 per day and 7 cents per mile travel expense. It was agreed that any additional costs for distribution during 1960 charged solely to the Utah users would be paid from the \$20.88 transfer from the 1959 account.

After a discussion of the budget, it was moved by Mr. Lawrence Beck, and seconded by Mr. Gene Gamble, that a budget of \$270.00 be adopted for the Utah water users as their part of the total budget of \$800.00 for 1960, and that the assessment be made on the same basis as it was made in 1959. (Irrigated acreage basis:

Each water user's acreage was computed as a percentage of the total Utah irrigated acreage, and assessed this percentage of the Utah portion of the total budget.)

Mr. Criddle explained that most of the other systems in Utah use an acre-foot assessment basis on a running 5-year average delivery. Since this charge is only for the actual water used, and the 5-year average makes the assessment fairly uniform over the years, Mr. Criddle suggested that the water users might want to adopt this type of assessment when more measuring devices have been installed on all the diversions and records of the water delivery.

LOW WATER LOSS PROBLEMS

Mr. Criddle was asked about transportation losses in channels, especially during low water periods, and what might be done to save water. He stated that his office would talk with Mr. Triplett and appoint him water commissioner for 1960. Mr. Criddle assured the water users that his office would work with Mr. Triplett to get information for Wyoming and Utah loss problems and to try to fill rights in proper order.

A specific question was raised on the Ike Ditch, and stated that during the low water period water could not reach the point of diversion. Mr. Criddle said that the problem would have to be studied in more detail, and that if the water drops below a flow that can not reach an early priority, then to save the water such a release may not be necessary. But, he definitely stated that many factors must be considered in analyzing these waste problems before any recommendations could be made.

An inquiry was made as to what the State Engineer might be able to do about the losses at the headgate of the Interstate Canal Co. Some three to five cfs. were reportedly flowing uncontrolled through the broken headgate. Mr. Criddle said that his office would notify Interstate Canal Co. to repair the headgate as quickly as possible to eliminate this loss, and that Wyoming would be informed of this action.

DELIQUENT ASSESSMENT AND PENALTY

Mr. Criddle explained that delinquent accounts cost the State a great deal of time and money each year in collecting these assessments. He noted that there were no delinquencies for Burnt Fork - Birch Creek for 1959, and commended that the water users on their prompt payments of assessments. He said that by law all assessments are due on May 1. All other systems throughout the state had been approached with the proposal of a state-wide delinquent assessment and they had agreed assessments would be due June 1, or 60 days after the notices had been sent out, and that the due date would be clearly indicated on each notice; and that a 10% delinquency charge would be attached to all delinquent assessments, with a minimum charge of \$1.00. Mr. Criddle explained that all delinquent penalty money would become part of the funds of the system in which they were collected and would tend to reduce assessments for the following year.

The group agreed to support the State Engineer in the assessment penalty policy.

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.

Attending the 1960 Annual Meeting were:

L. R. Beck	McKinnon Wyo.	Representing:
Harry Katzmyn	"	Becks
Laray Sadlier	"	Self
Duane Beck	"	Sadliers
Karl Allen	"	Becks
Louis Stoll	Burntfork, Wyo.	Self
Bob Gamble	"	"
Gene Gamble	"	"
David Miller	Superintendent Dist. #4 Wyoming State Engineer	
Wayne D. Criddle	State Engineer, Utah (Salt Lake City)	
Donald C. Norseth	Distribution Engineer Salt Lake City, Utah	
Frank Reese	Business Manager, Salt Lake City, Utah	
Clarence E. Erickson, Jr.	Distribution Engineer, Salt Lake City, Utah	